

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A unit for ~~applying~~ inserting printed coupons ~~to~~ into packets in packaging machines, comprising:

first means by which to feed coupons procured as single items ordered in a stack,
or second means by which to feed coupons obtained as cuts from a continuous strip;

an assembly station having a pocket and for receiving a collar of a packet; and

a universal pickup and application device installed permanently in ~~the~~ a machine wherein the universal pickup and application device ~~takes~~ picks up an individual coupon with equal facility from either the first or the second feed means at a pickup station and conveys the picked-up coupon to a release position which overlies ~~where the coupon is placed in a desired position relative to~~ the pocket of the assembly station and the picked-up coupon comes to rest beneath a collar of a packet prior to insertion ~~of the coupon~~ into a the packet.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the first and second feed means are mutually interchangeable.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 24, wherein the first feed means comprise a magazine containing a plurality of coupons ordered in a stack aligned on a relative axis substantially perpendicular to the pickup station.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 24, wherein the second feed means comprise units by means of which respectively to decoil, feed and cut a continuous strip, of which the feed unit is designed to index the continuous strip, at least when in the neighborhood of the pickup station, through predetermined steps and in a direction coinciding with a plane disposed parallel and in close proximity to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the pickup and application device includes at least one pickup assembly, located on a carrier, which assembly moves between the pickup station and the release position due to movement of the carrier about an axis parallel to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup assembly comprises a pickup mechanism which rolls tangentially in reference to the plane containing the pickup station during the step of picking up the coupon from the pick up station and to advance the coupon along a predetermined path, passing from the pickup station to the release position.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup mechanism is furnished with at least one suction cup connectable to a source of negative pressure and designed to attract a coupon occupying the reference plane of the pickup station by rolling against one face thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 29 , wherein the pickup and application device comprises first and second guiding and locating means serving to ensure the correct transfer of the coupons.